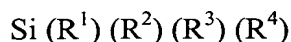


REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held July 12, 2006, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art, and discussed other issues raised in the Office Action. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 3,350,345 (Vanderbilt et al) in view of U.S. 5,736,246 (Augier et al)¹, is respectfully traversed.

As recited in Claim 1, which is drawn to a reinforcement yarn coated with a sizing composition, and in Claim 8, which is drawn to the sizing composition *per se*, the sizing composition comprises at least one silane satisfying the following formula:



wherein, *inter alia*, $\text{R}^4 = -\text{R}^7-\text{NHR}^8$, wherein R^7 is selected from **branched** hydrocarbon radicals having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms in the main chain (emphasis added).

As described in the specification beginning at page 9, line 4, the above-discussed silane of the present claims acts not only as a coupling agent, as usually observed with silanes, but also, it would seem, as a protective agent. It seems in particular that the silane has the double advantage of protecting the surface of the reinforcement yarns, particularly from moisture, without correspondingly impairing, in particular, impregnation with organic materials.

As Applicants' attorney pointed out during the above-referenced interview, the specification contains comparative data using the presently-recited silane (Example 1), and comparative examples using an aminoalkyl trialkoxy silane outside the terms of the present

¹ Applicants note that the Examiner incorrectly refers to Augier et al as "5,713,246."

claims, i.e., (N-benzylaminoethyl) aminopropyl-trimethoxysilane in Comparative Example 1, and aminoethylaminopropyl-trimethoxysilane in Comparative Example 2. As described in the specification, the flexural strength after aging was about 1800 MPa for Example 1, and only 1007 MPa for Comparative Example 1 and 1130 MPa for Comparative Example 2. In addition, the shear strength after aging was about 52 MPa for Example 1, and only 20 MPa for Comparative Example 1 and 23 MPa for Comparative Example 2.

Thus, the above-discussed results support the description at page 17, line 7ff of the specification that the present invention results in, *inter alia*, superior mechanical properties after aging in a wet medium.

The above-discussed results could not have been predicted by the applied prior art.

Vanderbilt et al discloses treating siliceous surfaces, such as glass fibers, with a silane containing a group, corresponding to presently-recited R⁴, as -R-Y, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, aralkylene, and arylene, and Y is a reactive radical selected from the group consisting of amino, mercapto, carboxyl, cyano, hydroxy, epoxy, quinonyl, sulfonic acid and oxime (column 1, lines 56-68). It appears that the Examiner is relying on Vanderbilt et al's silane when R is alkylene and Y is amino. However, and as Applicants' attorney noted during the above-referenced interview, Vanderbilt et al discloses and suggests nothing with regard to their alkylene being branched. Indeed, none of the specific amino-containing silanes listed by Vanderbilt et al (column 2, line 15ff) or exemplified (column 5, line 18ff) employ other than a straight chain alkylene, when R is alkylene.

Augier et al is drawn to a sizing composition comprising a particular silane, which silane includes at least one unsaturated ring substituted with at least one unsaturated chain conjugated with the unsaturated ring (column 2, lines 39-52).

Even if a person of ordinary skill in the art combined Vanderbilt et al and Augier et al, the result would still not be the presently-claimed invention, since Augier et al discloses and suggests nothing about the R group of Vanderbilt et al being a branched alkylene.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection would now appear to be moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, is respectfully traversed. Applicants disclose applicable organic materials and inorganic materials in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13. Since the claims are directed to persons skilled in the art, and as Applicants' attorney noted during the above-referenced interview, such persons would be enabled to determine applicable organic and inorganic materials. Moreover, Claim 9 now requires that the reinforcement yarn be incorporated in said material. Clearly, one skilled in the art would not expect that the reinforcement yarns would be incorporated into fruits or vegetables, as posited by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants note that the Form PTO-1449, attached to the Office Action, does not appear to contain the Examiner's initials next to the document designated as "AO."

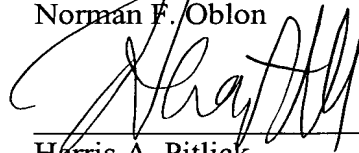
Therefore, **submitted herewith** is another copy of this form as filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial next to document AO.

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All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

NFO:HAP\la